2 Ile not meddle with it, it is a dangerous thing,
It makes a man a coward. A man cannot steale,
But it accuseth him, he cannot steale but it checks him:
He canuot lye with his neighbours wife but it detects
Him, it is a blushing shamfast spirit that mutinies
In a mans bosome: it fils one full of obstacles,
It made me once restore a piece of gold that I found.
It beggers any man that keepes it: it is turnd out of all
Townes and Cities for a dangerous thing, and euery
Man that meanes to liue well, endeuours to trust
To himselfe, and to liue without it.

1 Zounds, it is euen now at my elbow perswading me
Not to kill the Duke.

2 Take the deuill in thy minde, and beleeue him not,
He would insinuate with thee to make thee sigh.

1 Tut, I am strong in fraud, he cannot peuaile with me,
I warrant thee.

2 Soode like a tall fellow that respects his reputation,
Come shall we to this geare?

1 Take him ouer the costard with the hilts of my sword,
And then we wil chop him in the Malmsey-but in the next (roome

2 Oh, excellent deuice, make a soppe of him.

1 Harke, he stirs, shall I strike?

2 No, first lets reason with him. *Cla. awaketh.*

Cla. Where art thou Keeper, giue me a cup of wine.

1 You shall haue wine enough, my Lo. anon.

Cla. In Gods name, what art thou?

2. A man, as you are.

Cla. But not as I am, royall.

2 Nor you as we are, loyall.

Cla. Thy voyce is thunder, but thy lookes are humble.

2 My voyce is now the kings, my lookes mine owne.

Cla. How darkely and how deadly doost thou spake?
Tell me who are you? wherefore come you hither?

Am. To, to, to.

Cla. To murther me? *Am. I.*

Cla. You scarsely haue the hearts to tell me so,
And therefore cannot haue the hearts to do it.
Wherein my friends haue I offended you?

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22317, 22318) LONDON, 1605, 1612 THE BRITISH LIBRA